



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLORIDA MAN CHARGED WITH ENTICING A MINOR FOR SEX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Jacksonville, Fla., man was charged in federal court today with enticing a minor over the Internet for illicit sex.

Billy G. Hicks, Jr., 42, of Jacksonville, was charged in a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Kansas City this morning. **Hicks** was arrested by federal law enforcement officers as he waited aboard an airplane that arrived at Kansas City International Airport on Feb. 5, 2005, allegedly following an Internet solicitation to meet a 13-year-old female for sex.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Hicks** contacted an undercover agent posing as an underage female through Internet instant messaging on Jan. 18, 2005. On Feb. 5, 2005, the affidavit says, **Hicks** traveled from Jacksonville to Kansas City via Northwest Airlines and was arrested upon his arrival.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow